

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A superconductive magnetic bearing comprising a stationary bearing portion having an annular superconductor unit provided on a fixed portion, and a rotatable bearing portion having an annular permanent magnet unit provided on a rotary portion so as to be opposed to the superconductor unit, the rotary portion being contactlessly supported relative to the fixed portion by the pinning effect of a superconductor constituting the superconductor unit,

the superconductive magnetic bearing being characterized in that the rotatable bearing portion comprises the annular permanent magnet unit and an annular yoke adjacent to the permanent magnet unit and opposed to the superconductor unit, the permanent magnet unit comprises a plurality of permanent magnet members arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer provided between each adjacent pair of magnet members, ~~and~~ the yoke comprises a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members, and the superconductor unit includes a plurality of circumferentially divided superconductor bulks.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).